



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029**

April 25, 2007

James E. Sothen, P.E., Director
Engineering Division- Division of Highways
West Virginia Department of Transportation
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building Five, Room 110
Charleston, West Virginia 253305-0430

RE: Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Appalachian Corridor H Project (SFEIS). CEQ # 20070069

Dear Mr. Sothen:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above mentioned (SFEIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. The document incorporates updated information and analysis since the December 2002 Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This document identifies the Revised Original Preferred Alternative (ROPA) from Parsons to Davis as the preferred alternative.

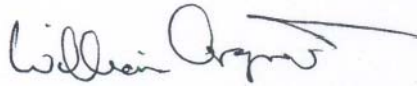
The EPA concurred on February 7, 2005, that the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) had identified the ROPA as their preferred alternative and requested that WVDOH continue to avoid and minimize environmental impacts. Unfortunately, it does not seem that WVDOH has been able to reduce any environmental impacts in the SFEIS, except a slight shift to possibly avoid a population of the West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel. This shift increased the acreage of wetland and linear feet of stream impacts.

Based on our review we conclude that while adequate information has been provided, we still have environmental concerns regarding the selection of the ROPA. The ROPA will impact 11.13 acres of wetlands and 9,277 linear feet of stream channels. EPA recommends that the WVDOH develop ways to further avoid and minimize impacts during the construction phase of the project. WVDOH should ensure that adequate wetland crossings maintain the hydrology of the wetlands system. Additionally, oversized and embedded culverts should be utilized for stream crossings.



Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to this document. If you have any questions regarding our comments please contact Jamie Davis at 215-814-5569 or by email at davis.jamie@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Arguto", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

William Arguto
NEPA Team Leader
Office of Environmental Programs

